GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Commercial Tax Department – Allegation of corruption against Sri P. Kamala Rao, Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, O/o. Commercial Tax Office (Commercial Tax), Steel Plant Circle, Visakhapatnam - Trapped by Anti-Corruption Bureau on 04-05-2015 – Final report furnished - Articles of charges framed -Written Statements of defense received – Examined - Appointment of Inquiry Officer – Orders – Issued.

****

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 757 Dated: 22-10-2024

Read the following:

Ref: 1. The D.G., ACB Lr. RC. No.55/RCT-WVP/2015-S,11, Dt.04.05.2015.
2. G.O.Ms.No.455, Revenue (Vig.II) Department dated.16.10.2017
3. G.O.Ms.No.69, Revenue (Vig.VI) Department, Dt:21.02.2024
4.G.O.Rt.No.211, Revenue (Vig.VI) Department, Dt:21.02.2024
5. From the CCST, Lr.No.V2/216/2015, dt:11.04.2024
6. Govt. Memo.No.13189/Vig.II(3)/2015 Dt.23-04-2024
7. From the DG, ACB, Vijayawada Rc.No.55/RCT-WVP/2015-S.11, Dt:18.05.2024
8. Defence of Smt R.V. Padmaja, former CTO, presently DC (ST), O/o Regional GST Audit & Enforcement, Visakhapatnam, dt.26-3-2024 received on 1-4-2024.
9. Govt. Memo. No. 2449208-REV01-CCST/2/2024-Vig-VI,Dt:04/06/2024

&&&

O R D E R:

Whereas, an inquiry under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1991, is being conducted against Sri P. Kamala Rao, the then Dy CTO (DCTO) (AO.1), and Smt. R.V. Padmaja, Commercial Tax Officer (CTO), Steel Plant Circle, Visakhapatnam (AO.2), on allegations of demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs.1,50,000/- from Sri M. Srinivas for issuing an audit clearance letter. The Director General (DG), Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), has submitted his final report and recommending the prosecution against Sri P. Kamala Rao, DCTO (AO.1), in addition to departmental action against the both COs for violating Rule 3 of the APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1965. Accordingly, in the reference 2nd cited, prosecution sanction has been accorded against Sri P. Kamala Rao, the then Deputy Commercial Tax Officer (DCTO) (AO.1), and a charge sheet was filed in court on 28-11-2017.

2. Whereas, in the reference 3rd cited, common disciplinary proceedings were also initiated against Sri P. Kamala Rao, the then DCTO, and Smt. R.V. Padmaja, CTO, Steel Plant Circle, Visakhapatnam (AO.2), under Rule 24 of the APCS (Classification, Control, and Appeal) Rules, 1991. The Chief Commissioner of State Tax (CCST), AP, in his letter dated 11-07-2023, informed that charges have been framed against Sri P. Kamala Rao, DCTO (AO.1), presently working as Assistant Commissioner (State Tax), O/o Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Vizianagaram, regarding the Departmental

(P.T.O)

Inquiry. In the reference 4th cited, charges have also been framed against Smt. R.V. Padmaja, Deputy Commissioner (State Tax), Regional GST Audit & Enforcement Office, Visakhapatnam. Both Charged Officers have submitted their Written Statements of Defence (WSD) in response to the charges. However, their defenses are not convincing.

3. And whereas, it is considered to appoint an Inquiry Officer to inquire into the charges framed against the aforementioned Charged Officers.

4. Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 20 of the said Rules, the Government hereby appoints the Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Vizianagaram, as the Inquiry Officer to inquire into the charges framed against the Charged Officers, namely, Sri P. Kamala Rao, the then Deputy Commercial Tax Officer (DCTO) (AO.1) now retired, and Smt. R.V. Padmaja, CTO(CTO), Steel Plant Circle, Visakhapatnam (AO.2) presently working in DC (ST) REO, Visakhapatnam. The Inquiry Officer is directed to submit his inquiry report, in duplicate, with his attestation, within two months. If the inquiry is not completed within this period, the Inquiry Officer shall obtain permission for an extension of time to complete the inquiry, explaining reasons as per the guidelines issued in G.O. Ms. No. 91, General Administration Department, dated 12-09-2022 and further action will be taken against him in terms of circular instructions issued in Government Memo No.2449208-REV01-CCST/2/2024-Vig-VI,Dt:04/06/2024.

5. Copies of the Articles of Charge framed against the Charged Officers, along with the served copies, and Written Statements of Defence and related documents, are enclosed for ready reference.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PEEYUSH KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Vizianagaram (through CCST Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur District as well as mail.
The Chief Commissioner (State Tax) Andhra Pradesh, Kunchanapalli, Guntur District.
The Charged Officers, Sri P. Kamala Rao, the then DCTO (DCTO) (AO.1), and Smt. R.V. Padmaja, the then CTO, Steel Plant Circle, Visakhapatnam (AO.2) Now DC(ST), REO, Visakhapatnam.
The Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada. SF/SC.

//FORWARDED: BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER